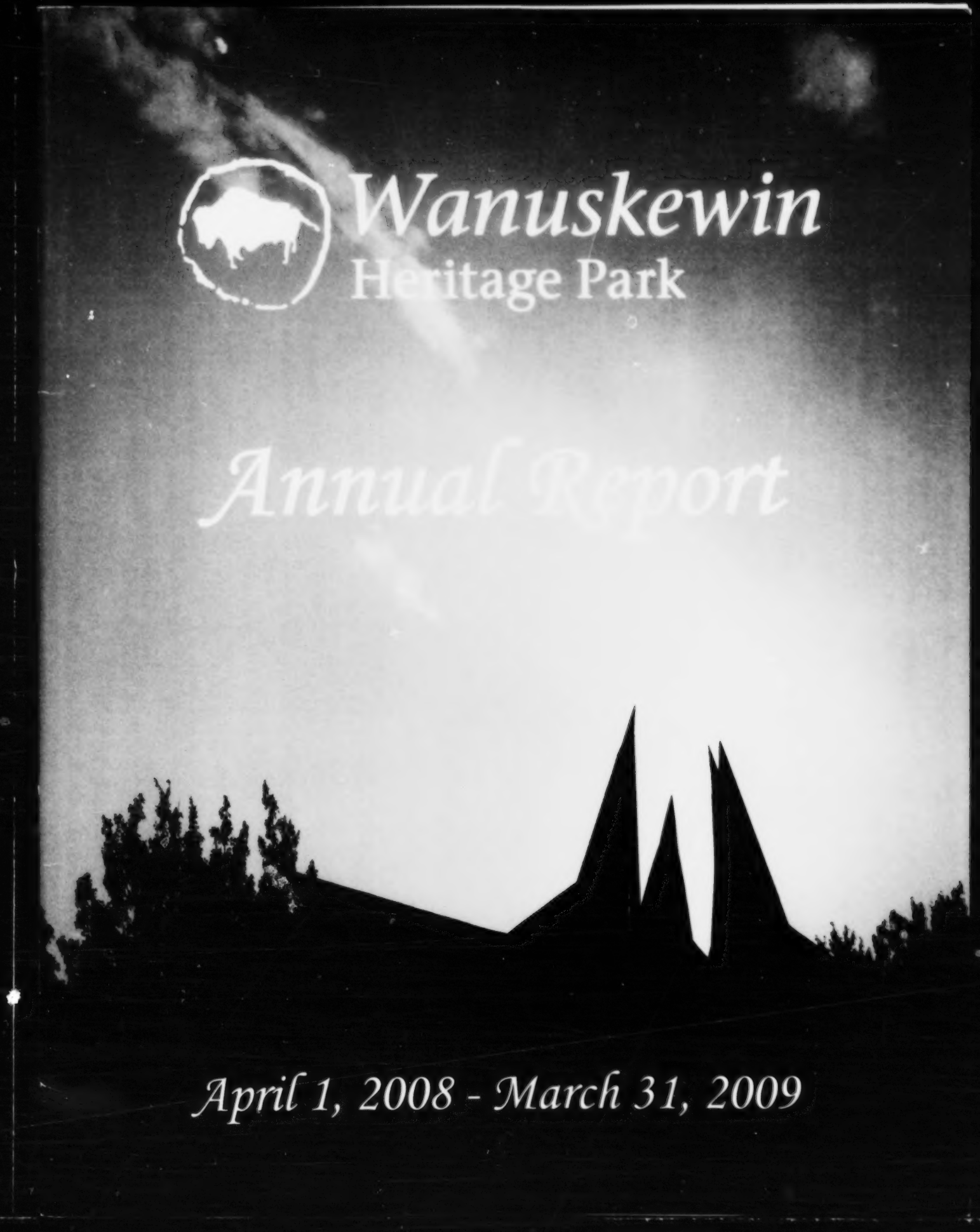
Wanuskewin
Heritage Park
Annual Report
April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009

On the edge of the Canadian prairie where the Opimihaw Creek (formerly called Tipperary Creek) flows into the South Saskatchewan River, the First Nations people found peace and sustenance in a place that has changed very little over thousands of years. Countless generations have returned to this valley to feast, seek guidance, dance, and tell stories. In the First Nations community, Wanuskewin is valued as a meeting place, a place of spiritual renewal. The name Wanuskewin is a Cree word chosen by the Elders to describe the history of the place. Loosely translated, Wanuskewin means "***seeking peace of mind***" or "***living in harmony***".

Wanuskewin Heritage Park is a National Historic Site that brings to life the history and culture of the Northern and Plains First Nations peoples. The 760 acre Park, located five kilometres north of the City of Saskatoon, was dedicated by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1987, and established by the Province of Saskatchewan in 1992 as a living memorial to the people who gathered on the site for over 6,000 years. The 31,000 square foot Visitor Centre features an Art Gallery, Gift Shop, Theatre, Museum, Activity Area, Restaurant and Meeting Facilities. The Park environs feature a Pow Wow Arbor, Amphitheatre, Tipi Village, Picnic Site, and Sweat Lodge. Several kilometres of Interpretive Trails lead to tipi rings, buffalo jumps, medicine wheel, buffalo rubbing stone, and 19 historical habitation sites.

Early in the Park's planning stages, an Elders' committee issued a resolution on spiritual values in order to maintain the sacredness of what the First Nations believe had been bestowed upon them by the Great Spirit. Elders continue to provide an important advisory role on the cultural aspects of programming and development at the Park through the non-profit corporation – *Wanuskewin Indian Heritage Inc.*

Over the past two decades since the Park was created, several changes took place in terms of economic environment, organizational culture and partnership mandate; however, the main objective of Wanuskewin Heritage Park has never faltered. Wanuskewin has always been about the land and the influence it has had on First Nations culture, tradition and ceremonies. The location of Wanuskewin is the true asset and holds the culture and traditions of a lifestyle that went on in this valley and its surrounding hills for thousands of years.

Stewardship of the Park and its resources rests with the *Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority* established under the *Wanuskewin Heritage Park Act of Saskatchewan*. The Authority is a registered charitable organization in Canada.

The Park Act

The Wanuskewin Heritage Park Act was proclaimed in September 1989 by the Province of Saskatchewan, and a separate organization was established to operate the Park.

Each of the major stakeholders is represented in the Park's corporate Board of Directors: the City of Saskatoon, the Government of Saskatchewan, the Government of Canada, Meewasin Valley Authority, Wanuskewin Circle of Friends (volunteer body), Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Wanuskewin Indian Heritage Inc., and the University of Saskatchewan.

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Wanuskewin Heritage Park
2008 - 2009 Annual Report
Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2009

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Message from the Board Chair

The year that was

Challenging yet exciting. What a year it was at Wanuskewin! A stalled renewal project, the search for a new CEO and a funding crisis were just a few of the challenges facing the Board.

Out of adversity come great things. So it will be for Wanuskewin. The challenges brought the Elders, the Board, the staff and the community together to re-examine the purpose, the mission and the vision for Wanuskewin. It caused us all to search the past, seek the wisdom of the Elders, to connect to the spirituality of the place. It was a time to restore harmony between all stakeholders. A time to renew and re-energize Wanuskewin as the place where all the First Nations Cultures of the Great Plains could be proudly displayed and interpreted for all the people of Saskatchewan and the world. One of the end results was a major redesign of the exhibit halls and programming spaces mid stream in the construction process. The exercise reaffirmed Wanuskewin should be an interactive interpretive experience not a museum.

The Board also considered how to improve governance and accountability at the Park. The Board entered into an agreement with the Province detailing better reporting requirements and planning procedures. The Board is also working with the Province to investigate the possibility of opening the legislation, the Wanuskewin Heritage Park Act (1997), to further improve governance and accountability. The Board continued working on new bylaws and policy and procedure manuals. These items will be a work in progress for the next year or so.

Appreciation and thanks

The guidance and assistance of the provincial Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport was much needed and appreciated. As was the significant support and wisdom of the federal Department of Canadian Heritage. I would be remiss not to thank the Government of Saskatchewan for seeing the dire financial situation at the Park and stepping in boldly to protect the assets and for enabling the Board to continue with the construction phase of the renewal project.

The Board would also like to thank our acting CEO Pat Lorje for her tremendous commitment, dedication and effort in helping us through this most challenging time at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. It was through her stewardship the Parks' fiscal health returned, relations with the stakeholders improved, Elders were reconnected and she stayed on until a successful search for a First Nations CEO concluded.

Thanks too to the Elders who participated with the renewal at Wanuskewin. Sadly, during the year, Wanuskewin lost a few of the Elders who were instrumental in the development and guidance of cultural activities at the Park. Mr. Lloyd Brass was a long standing WHPA and WIHI Board Member who was part of the concept development of Wanuskewin Heritage Park in 1985 and was involved on a daily basis until he turned ill. Even after he recovered Mr. Brass was still a part of Wanuskewin Heritage Park until his passing. Ms. Florence Carrier was part of the WIHI Board of Directors who brought a great deal of insight to Wanuskewin. Their passion and dedication will continue to live on and may their efforts not be forgotten. Mr. Jimmy Myo was another long standing WHPA and WIHI Board Member who resigned from the WHPA Board in November 2008 who will also be missed at the board meetings but his passion and dedication continues to live on within Wanuskewin Heritage Park. I learned a great deal from many of the Elders comments. I believe their guidance has made me a better Board Chair.

When the chips were down the Board stepped up. Thanks to all Board members for a tremendous above and beyond response to the many challenges we faced this year.

The heart of any organization is its people. Thanks to a dedicated core staff who hung in when working conditions were less than ideal. Wanuskewin weathered the storm of construction and continued under adverse conditions to provide an exceptional visitor experience for as long as possible. When the site had to close to visitors they took time off, went for additional training, some took on additional responsibilities and all did some terrific planning for the future. Thank you for a job well done!

Looking forward

Looking forward Wanuskewin has a bright future. 2009 will see the completion of the construction phase of the renewal project and the Park will reopen to the public. However, the renewal will still be a work in progress. The increase in meeting/programming space and a new restaurant and gift shop will help Wanuskewin significantly boost its self-generated revenues and therefore its viability. Yet substantially more funding will be required to renew the permanent exhibits. A major fundraising program will be launched to raise at least $1.5 million for the permanent gallery exhibits. Also an annual campaign will be started to help expand and sustain our cultural programming. Not to be forgotten, the Legacy Fund will be another avenue for friends of Wanuskewin to contribute to the long term stability of the Park.

New interactive exhibits such as "The Horse Culture of the Plains" are being worked on to engage and excite visitors to the Park. The new Great Hall exhibit area will start hosting travelling exhibits to give Wanuskewin a fresh look several times a year. An expanded emphasis on education and links with the University will be developed. Likewise the Parks' involvement with both the school boards will be enhanced and result in more school children learning about First Nations cultures at the Park.

While much of this new activity may happen in the redesigned space in the main building, the site itself and connecting with the land will remain a key component of the Wanuskewin experience. The renewal has not forgotten the trails and the valley. Improved signage, other devices and displays coupled with increased programming will assist the visitor in attaining a greater understanding of the site, its history and significance to the early First Nations people who used the valley.

Behind the scenes new policies are being worked on to preserve the site (floral and fauna) and its archaeological treasures. How well we do in that regard will be our legacy for future generations.

Come and explore – be part of our future

The future for Wanuskewin is bright. Our incoming CEO Dana Soonias, a member of the Red Pheasant First Nation, opens a new chapter in First Nations management at the Park. His accounting background and management skills come at a critical time. Wanuskewin will benefit from his passion to share and engage others in First nations culture and traditions.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve this year as Board Chair. When I see the positive future for Wanuskewin it makes all the hard work and countless hours of meetings very worthwhile.

Wanuskewin is a work in progress and it will take many hands and resources to accomplish the dreams of the Elders. I invite you to volunteer to be a part of Wanuskewin and if possible to contribute to our fundraising efforts in the coming year.

Come and explore often as Wanuskewin renews itself and brings the past to life and life to the evolving cultures of the First Nations of the Great Plains.

Lloyd W. Beazley
Chair

Message from the Acting Chief Executive Officer

I started my employment with Wanuskewin just over thirteen months ago. The Board asked me to step in on a temporary basis as the Acting CEO. My original three month contract somehow lasted 13 months! It has been a most worthwhile and unforgettable experience. I have made some deep and lasting friendships, I have learned so much about First Nations and Métis history and culture and protocol, and I have had my life enriched and changed in so many ways.

When I agreed to step in on a temporary basis, it was with a few clear goals. I think I have met them all. First, it was clear to me that the success of any tourist destination depends on sound financial management. When I came here, we were facing an unacceptably high deficit. I am proud to report to the Board that we closed off this year end in the black. Not only did we balance the books on the operating side, with the announcement by Federal Minister Moore on April 8th, we will also be able to retire our capital debt.

Secondly, many people told me that Wanuskewin had become isolated and removed from the strong and nurturing community from which it sprang. That has changed. Community relations are improved - the FSIN, SICC, MNS, and many, many First Nations individuals and organizations are now regular visitors and friends. Our Elders' Board are keen and dedicated advisors. The staff is invigorated and engaged. We have implemented a strong and ongoing sense of renewal of traditional First Nations values and protocol.

Thirdly, we now have a fully financed construction project. Thanks to the generous assistance of both the federal and provincial governments, and thanks to the patience and fortitude of our General Contractor, Graham Construction, we will be able to re-open to the general public sometime soon after the May long week-end. We have achieved over five million dollars in funding for this project over the time I have been involved with Wanuskewin, and I am certain that the results will be more than worthwhile.

Finally, one clear goal that I had when I came here was to hand over my position to a First Nations person. This goal has also been achieved.

And so, it is with a sense of accomplishment and completion that I leave my post as Acting CEO. My departure is tinged with some regret, but my decision is made so much easier by knowing that Wanuskewin is in hand and that it will be in good hands. It hasn't always been easy but it has always been worthwhile. I am so pleased to have been able to assist Wanuskewin through a difficult period and I take great satisfaction in knowing that better times now lie ahead, but for myself I am aware that it is time to leave.

I offer my sincere thanks and very best wishes to the staff and the Board who have worked so tirelessly to meet the challenges to turn Wanuskewin around. I will continue to take a keen interest in your success. Wanuskewin's mission in honouring First Nations' heritage and in bringing together all peoples in a spirit of harmony is as meaningful today as when it first opened. Wanuskewin's success is important to me. With your new CEO you have the vision and leadership necessary to see the renewal project through to completion. I wish him, and all the wonderful people who have committed to that Wanuskewin mission my very best for a future worthy of this inspiring place.

Pat Lorje,
Acting CEO

Operational Activities

In the operating year of this Annual Report, many activities took place that turned into a very challenging but rewarding year.

This reporting year had a high staff turnover which required many of the staff to perform double and even triple duties. This year was also a year when everyone of the small, dedicated and passionate pool of staff came together to aid in moving the Park forward into the direction that it was initially intended. It was at that time when the Board of Directors, staff, and stakeholders came together to reaffirm the direction of Wanuskewin Heritage Park. Many people provided excellent input into the future direction of Wanuskewin and these sessions were facilitated by Mr. Brian Laurie-Beaumont of the Canadian Conservation Institute. Mr. Laurie-Beaumont guided everyone through a process that looked at the existing programs and potential new programs as well as the statistics on the Park's visitation. Another session we participated in was to see where we were, where we are, and where we want to go. After the sessions ended the staff continued to work on the programs and work towards the completion of the construction project.

Closing the Park to the general public in November 2008 provided the staff to clean up and put away equipment and artifacts to get ready for the construction to restart. This also provided the staff to collectively collaborate on the interpretive programs and how they can be enhanced to provide the tour groups, school groups, and general visitors to the Park with an even more fulfilling experience.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATION/ADMINISTRATION

Marketing was a bit slower this past fiscal year due to the partial closure and then the full closure of the Park for the completion of the multi-million dollar renewal construction project.

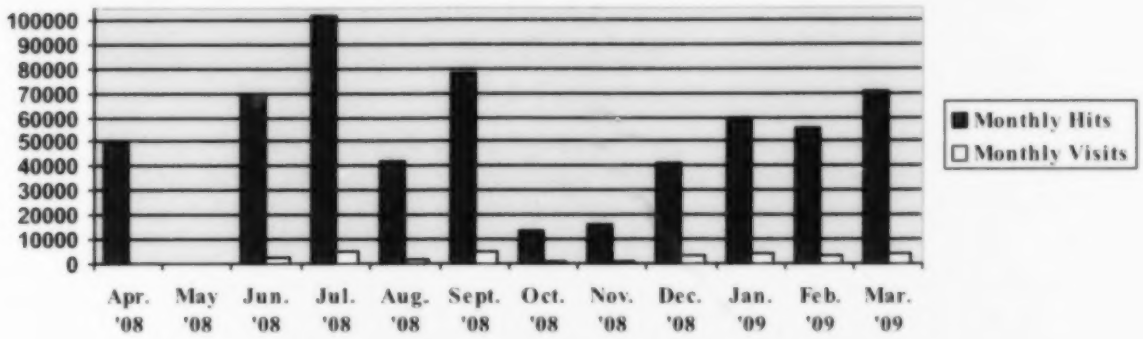
Through the changes that took place we were able to continue with some initiatives to keep the word out that Wanuskewin Heritage Park is still in operation but just on a smaller scale. Wanuskewin continued with the partnerships with Tourism Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan West Central Tourism Region, and Tourism Saskatoon to participate in a number of marketing initiatives to continue to highlight Wanuskewin Heritage Park as an international attraction. Partnerships are what aids in the success of any attraction and/or business and there is no exception to Wanunskewin. Therefore, Wanuskewin continued with the developed partnerships between the Park Town Hotel, Western Development Museum, and Shearwater River Boat Cruise in the development of a FIT (Fully Independent Travel) Package that was being sold to the Travel Trade Market.

Other initiatives included: the highway billboards around the province through the Residential Awareness Campaign coordinated through the Saskatchewan West Central Tourism Region, brochure distribution through the Saskatoon Airport, newspaper insert with Tourism Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Vacation Guide, and the Tourism Saskatoon Visitor Guide.

Wanuskewin was still able to have a presence in the trade and consumer show market by attending Rendezvous Canada in Vancouver, British Columbia and the Western Canadian Agribition in Regina, Saskatchewan. These shows provided us with the opportunity to reach the general touring traffic as well as the international travel trade market.

Wansukewin also participated in four FAM (familiarization) trips with Tourism Saskatchewan and Tourism Saskatoon throughout the year which gave us an opportunity to showcase our attraction to international guests.

Website Statistics



	Apr. '08	May '08	Jun. '08	Jul. '08	Aug. '08	Sept. '08	Oct. '08	Nov. '08	Dec. '08	Jan. '09	Feb. '09	Mar. '09
Monthly Hits	49,587		69,998	101,625	41,758	78,160	13,328	16,017	41,208	58,401	55,617	70,403
Monthly Visits			2,794	4,957	1,830	4,646	832	1,207	3,460	4,012	3,654	4,067

The above chart highlights the monthly hits and visits to the Wanuskewin Heritage Park website in this past reporting year. The visits will show the number of unique IP Addresses that have gone to the website while the hits shows how many times people have accessed the website in a given month. The month of April is only showing the monthly hits because it was around that time that we changed hosting company and we were not able to receive the statistics for the month of May and therefore the report was not recorded.

VISITOR SERVICES

May and June school tours continued as expected and students, teachers, and chaperones alike had an enjoyable time. The construction, being at a halt gave Visitor Services Staff limited space to do various programs but they still managed to make it all work out and give the visitors a memorable experience. The Visitor Services team were devoting more one on one time with the guests visiting the park, which is consistent with the First Nations teachings. These visitors appreciated the more intimate time they spent with the interpretive guide thus providing more time for two-way communication. Tours were also ongoing throughout the summer months.

During the closure to the public, Visitor Services were assigned to other duties such as archiving items that were on display. The archiving of items took a substantial amount of time and there was a large amount of work that needed to be done photographing, documenting, and carefully wrapping each artifact, as well as labeling and boxing the various items. Inventory of visitor services program items were also counted and safely put into storage.

Visitor Services also helped in the moving of the restaurant and other items around in the building to make room for construction to continue; however, when this work was all done there was planning of new programs and revamping of old programs. The intention was to make the programs have meaning, still be fun to do, and make it easy for the new interpretive staff to learn for the summer months. The crafts were done in that same effect. For example, the tipi craft is focused on the fundamentals of the tipi, such as how many bison robes it took to set up a 15 foot tipi, the tri-pod, the tipi pole teachings and the history of the tipi. Visitor Services also worked on revamping some of the interpretive staff job descriptions in anticipation for new staff joining our organization which took a lot of planning and research. It has been a struggle as well as a teaching in itself; everyday was a learning experience and a teaching experience. All in all it has been a very knowledgeable year. We have learned what was is necessary to make Wanuskewin Heritage Park a world class heritage centre focused on interactive exhibits and interpretive excellence.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Cultural Resources Department kept busy this fiscal year producing cultural guidance and programming for various functions and bookings. During the months of April and May our Cultural Resources Manager, Mr. Lorin Gardypie, worked a great deal with the Visitor Services Department. Time was spent helping with the delivery of the programs for various school tours that came to Wanuskewin Heritage Park and the Tipi Sleepovers that took place.

Other events that took place are as follows:

Healing Gathering ~ June 18, 2008

A healing gathering was organized to address some of the concerns of past and present Wanuskewin staff members. Board members and other local dignitaries were present at this healing gathering.

National Aboriginal Day ~ June 21, 2008

This celebration took place at Wanuskewin Heritage Park in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre. The day kicked off with a pipe ceremony then ran different programs throughout the day. Towards the evening a dance performance with several dancers and singers took place in the amphitheatre.

Don Kelly and the Fish out of Water Production Company ~ June 28, 2008

A full episode on Wanuskewin Heritage Park and the traditional Plains First Nations way of life production took place. Filming took place for two days with Wanuskewin offering different ancient teachings on survival and hunting.

Canadian Flax Conference ~ July 20, 2008

This conference took place in the open area at Wanuskewin Heritage Park where various interpretive programs were delivered for the delegates. The delegates then enjoyed a fabulous meal and ended the evening off with a traditional dance performance.

Traditional Style Wedding for T.J. Warren and Dabney Morin ~ July 23, 2008

Wanuskewin Heritage Park is a place where people gather for many reasons and a wedding is a special occasion where people would gather on this sacred ground. T.J. Warren from Red Mesa, Arizona and Dabney Morin from Big River, Saskatchewan gathered at Wanuskewin Heritage Park among friends and family to share their wedding day at Eagle's Point on the south side overlooking the river and then the day ended with a Round Dance underneath the 'big top'.

Canada Challenge ~ July 31, 2008

Challenge Canada was an event that took place where a couple from England flew to Halifax, Nova Scotia and then travelled across Canada by train to Vancouver, British Columbia with a limited amount of money and video taped their experience. Greg and Kim came to Wanuskewin Heritage Park to challenge themselves on surviving a couple of days using the traditional ways of the Plains First Nations people. The couple had to set up their own tipi, cook their own food, and were taught some traditional dancing by their guide, Mr. Gardypie.

Kamada Walk – Kokums and Moshums Against Drugs and Alcohol ~ August 12, 2008

This was an annual walk of traditional elders who spoke out to combat the abuse of drugs and alcohol.

FSIN Culture Camp ~ September 19, 2008

Wanuskewin Heritage Park hosted a culture camp that was organized by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations that was geared to addressing and dissuading youth who were at risk of entering gang life.

Lieutenant Governors Leadership Forum ~ October 16, 2008

Cultural programs took place during the forum where the youth participated in traditional games.

During the month of November, Wanuskewin Heritage Park closed to the general public for the completion of the construction project; therefore, time was spent on helping the Visitor Services Department pack away the artifacts and gift shop inventory. After that was completed, time was spent on developing new programs and updating the old programs. During this time of closure, the Cultural Resources Department kept busy with the running of the Sweat Lodge as well as coordinating dance performances for the bookings that took place.

Overall it was a busy and active year for the Cultural Resources Department.

BOOKINGS & CATERING

The 2008-2009 year was a very interesting year with many challenges. Although we were closed for a portion of the year we were still able to host the following events:

National Aboriginal Day ~ June 21, 2008

Wanuskewin Heritage Park partnered with the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre and had a day of activities and programming and finished up with an evening of a number of traditional dance presentations. Dundee Wealth also partnered with Wanuskewin Heritage Park and brought their soccer challenge program for the benefit of our visitors and had contests which they gave away soccer balls and various other prizes.

Flax Bast 2008 "Fiber Foundations" ~ July 20, 2008

"Transportation, Clothing and Shelter in the Bio-Economy" as an event, is now history. However, its impact is only beginning to blossom! Connections made are now being cemented. Business to business, business to research, research to research and research to business discussions, dialogue and decisions are well underway at home and abroad. The world of flax and other bast plants has become much more accessible to all stakeholders, with the conference attracting 133 delegates from 18 countries.

Challenge Canada ~ July 31, 2008

KAMADA Walk ~ August 12, 2008

Approximately 150 people camped over at Wanuskewin Heritage Park that night.

2008 Lieutenant Governors Leadership Forum ~ October 16, 2008

The Lieutenant Governors Leadership Forum Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to engaging students in discussion and exposing them to educational and career opportunities in Saskatchewan. It encourages them to accept the challenge of leadership. The annual forum is made possible through the generous support of the private sector, federal and provincial government agencies and ministries, and the crown.

Wanuskewin Heritage Park also hosted a number of film shoots capturing the beautiful landscape. The companies that did film shoots consisted of:

Fish out of Water
Rabbit Falls
Big Stone Productions
University of Saskatchewan (filmed on location for the Looking Forward promotion which was used to attract First Nations people to the University)

January 23, 2009

February 11, 2009

March 31, 2009

Finished Meeting Room

RESTAURANT

The new fiscal year started off with the hiring of a new Executive Chef Douglas Hyndford, a member of the Peepeekisis Nation, schooled at the Pacific Institute of the Culinary Arts in Classical French Haute Cuisine. Chef Douglas revamped the restaurant and banquet menus to reflect more First Nation's influence.

Restaurant sales were slow this year due to the construction and the general public unaware of the Centre's status. As well, money was not spent on marketing, and the Director of Marketing was seconded to payroll and accounting duties and not able to market the facility. Restaurant sales are directly tied to admissions which also experienced a decline.

Wanuskewin's restaurant was successful in a few large catered events this year, which included: two weddings, a Flax Grower's Conference that included a variety of appetizers containing flax seed, a two day gathering of the National Collaborating Center for Aboriginal Health, several conferences with SICC, a Prix Fixe menu evening with the FSIN, Wanuskewin Alumni Dinner and Reception, National Aboriginal Day BBQ, catered lunches for a variety of Schools and Division's, as well as STC's Children First program. The restaurant also provided lunches for the crew of "Fish out of Water" as well as lunch for the Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Program.

The beginning of October, the Chef set up a "Daily Accountabilities" spread sheet to track restaurant sales, room sales, as well as wages and invoices from suppliers. This information flows into a third sheet in which the monthly totals are reported and the sales are measured against the costs, and inventory values are added against the total. This system also enables the user to see what the sales were like on any given day.

Some further changes were addressed in the renewal project in the kitchen design, new upscale tables and chairs were ordered for the new restaurant, a Point of Sales system has been ordered, and another new restaurant and catering menu was developed.

Chef Douglas has made efforts towards a greener industry standard. We have eliminated the use of styro-foam and limited the use of petroleum based plastics. Our take out containers have been substituted with a biodegradable sugar cane fiber, and our paper products and disposable plastic cutlery have been replaced with corn starch based biodegradable cutlery. Our garbage bags in the kitchen have also been replaced with a 100% oxo-biodegradable product that breaks down in the sun and air. Since the garbage is mostly made up of compostable materials and the aforementioned biodegradable products, it only made sense to switch out the petroleum based garbage bags with an environmental greener choice.

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE

This past fiscal year was a busy one for the Buildings, Grounds & Maintenance Department. The challenging part of the year was trying to maintain a building that was in various states of reconstruction.

The Department went through staffing changes this past year with the previous Building and Grounds Manager, Mr. Jim Sukut leaving in early 2008 which brought Ms. Christine MacDonald on as the new manager and did an amazing job to bring the building to proper operating standards. Ms. MacDondald returned to SIAST - Kelsey Institute to complete her third and second class Stationary Engineering Licenses. At that time Mr. Brent Paulson was hired as the new Building and Grounds Manager and Ms. MacDonald stayed on to assist Mr. Paulson in getting the HVAC (Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning) System ready for operation.

The Wanuskewin Heritage Park maintenance crew spent a substantial amount of time working on the trails getting them ready for the upcoming season. The Department also spent a considerable amount of time clearing out some of the dead fall trees which has the added benefit of using the wood for the Tipi Village without having to purchase additional fire wood and helps reduce the potential for fire in the Valley. The Department also spent some time 'refreshing' the exterior of the building by staining the plug-in poles, sign posts, the shade Tipi's in the play ground area and the front entrance. Things started to turn around when Graham Construction returned to Wanuskewin Heritage Park and continued with the construction project. This project has allowed the staff of the department to receive an invaluable learning experience for the mechanics of the building and to observe the whole aspects of a major renewal/construction project.

Redevelopment of Wanuskewin Heritage Park

In 2003, the Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority committed to the development and renewal of the Park's Visitor Centre, most notable the exhibit spaces. The purpose of this redevelopment was to ensure that Wanuskewin Heritage Park continued to play a leadership role in the interpretation and celebration of First Nations culture. In addition, this project was intended to raise the Park's community profile, increase attendance and earned revenues and thereby contribute to the Park's long term sustainability.

A Core Exhibition Team was formed to determine the best way to enhance the Interpretive Centre. The development of a new exhibit hall would work towards communicating a number of messages such as: 1) increasing the sensitivity, awareness and knowledge about First Nations cultures, for both First Nations and non-First Nations peoples; 2) portraying the courage and resilience of First Nations, and the values underlying these; 3) demonstrating that First Nations are still here, and will be here tomorrow, in spite of all that has happened to them; 4) combating and overcoming negative stereotypes about First Nations people; 5) demonstrating that non-material values, such as family and spirituality, are the foundation of First Nations cultures; 6) portraying the remarkable survival and evolution of First Nations societies through time; 7) providing a "mirror" of self-knoweledge, with which First Nations may get to know themselves better and re-establish their links with enduring cultural traditions; and 8) portraying the strengths and weaknesses of contemporary life, as well as the challenges confronting First nations at this point in time.

Through the lengthy discussions there were several themes that were identified and would be the basis of the exhibit hall and the new Interpretive Centre. Those themes were as follows: 1) Survival & Persistence: the histories and the cultures of the seven Tribal Nations at Wanuskewin Heritage Park are ongoing and encompass the past, the present and the future. These First Nations have been here since time immemorial, and their cultures have not only survived the hardships of Euro-Canadian contact, but are also dynamic and evolving. 2) Values & Beliefs: The cultures of the seven Tribal Nations are grounded in non-material values and beliefs, such as family, cooperating, spirituality and respect for all living things. These values and beliefs are the foundation of First Nations courage and persistence. 3) Unity & Diversity: While the seven Tribal Nations have many things in common, most notably their historical reliance on the buffalo, each of these Tribal Nations is unique.

Construction began on October 1, 2007 when Graham Construction moved on site and started to "break ground" by starting to dig the area for the new administration wing, the third adjoining meeting room, and the new restaurant. During that time the old exhibit hall was being taken apart to get things ready for the next phase of the renewal project - the new exhibit hall. Months progressed and the construction and changes were taking shape. In December 2007 the Administration Department relocated to the Operations Area and the demolition began in the administration office to start the construction on the new administration offices to include the majority of the staff.

By March 2008 the construction at the Park was going according to plan. The new restaurant, gift shop, and exhibition gallery began to take shape and the work was continuing in the administration area with plans to move into that area in the later part of the spring. Complete closure to Wanuskewin's Interpretive Centre was to happen in April 2008 so a new floor could be poured in the open area and because of the type of floor there could be no foot-traffic in that area for approximately two weeks. The new restaurant was coming together nicely and the old kitchen was to be dismantled at the end of March but do to changes the new floor did not get poured and the kitchen did not get dismantled. By mid October 2008 the construction project came to a halt due to funding issues although Wanuskewin Heritage Park remained opened with temporary exhibits on display.

On November 10, 2008 Wanuskewin Heritage Park received $2.8 million in support from the Provincial Government which enabled Wanuskewin Heritage Park to complete phase one of the capital renewal project that was put on hold. A great deal of work needed to be done to get things ready for Graham Construction to come back so staff worked diligently over the coming weeks and months to prepare for the kitchen, restaurant and gallery renovations; to catalogue and properly store all artifacts; to groom and maintain trails and significant outdoor sites at the park; to re-configure exhibits and displays; and to review, renew and revamp all programs.

Over the next few months the staff of Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Graham Construction, and the sub contractors all worked diligently to work towards the completion of the renewal project with the anticipated opening date to be the summer of 2009. On March 25, 2009 the Contribution Agreement was formally signed with Heritage Canada Cultural Spaces Program for $2.213 Million to complete the remainder of the Renewal Project.

Auditors Reports

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009

Heagy Altrogge Matchett & Partners LLP

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Audit

Heagy Altrogge Matchett & Partners LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE BOARD

We have audited the statement of financial position of Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority as at March 31, 2009 and the statements of receipts and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Authority's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as at March 31, 2009 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Heagy Altrogge Matchett & Partners LLP

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
August 20, 2009

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION **AS AT MARCH 31**

	2009 $	2008 $
ASSETS (note 4)		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	-	17,177
Accounts receivable	13,257	29,310
Accounts receivable - renewal project	63,935	405,390
Inventory	11,384	24,162
Prepaid expenses	11,484	10,458
	100,060	486,497
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (note 3)	9,777,926	8,809,645
	9,877,986	9,296,142
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Bank overdraft (note 4)	2,129	428,420
Bank overdraft - renewal project (note 4)	282,468	374,396
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	95,631	191,110
Accounts payable - renewal project	52,210	1,629,634
Deferred revenue (note 5)	10,000	10,000
	442,438	2,633,560
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (note 6)	9,121,028	6,548,163
	9,563,466	9,181,723
NET ASSETS		
INVESTED IN TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	386,155	662,842
UNRESTRICTED	(71,635)	(548,423)
	314,520	114,419
	9,877,986	9,296,142

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Director

Director

Heagy Altrogge Matchett & Partners LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31**

	Unrestricted $	Invested in Tangible Capital Assets $	2009 $	2008 $
BALANCE (DEFICIT) - BEGINNING OF YEAR	(548,423)	662,842	114,419	577,193
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over expenditures for the year	200,101	-	200,101	(462,774)
Receipts and expenditure allocations:				
Amortization of deferred contributions	(423,639)	423,639	-	-
Depreciation	436,550	(436,550)	-	-
Tangible capital asset transactions:				
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(1,404,831)	1,404,831	-	-
Contributions for tangible capital assets	2,996,504	(2,996,504)	-	-
Renewal project:				
Bank overdraft change	(91,928)	91,928	-	-
Accounts payable change	(1,577,424)	1,577,424	-	-
Accounts receivable change	341,455	(341,455)	-	-
	476,788	(276,687)	200,101	(462,774)
BALANCE (DEFICIT) - END OF YEAR	(71,635)	386,155	314,520	114,419

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES — **FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31**

	2009 $	2008 $
RECEIPTS		
Grants (schedule 1)	921,487	870,876
Amortization of deferred contributions related to tangible capital assets	423,639	443,874
Admission fees and memberships	60,985	102,344
Programs and other	46,236	81,879
Occupancy and rental	37,500	34,144
Donations	6,973	2,756
Net (loss) earnings for the year from gift shop operations (schedule 2)	(368)	11,731
Net (loss) earnings for the year from restaurant operations (schedule 3)	(113,491)	75,329
	1,382,961	1,622,933
EXPENDITURES		
Depreciation	427,908	431,358
Executive	313,952	708,412
Facility management	212,708	311,635
Programs	150,491	366,470
Marketing	76,154	94,937
Human resource development	1,647	8,997
Write-down of tangible capital assets	-	163,898
	1,182,860	2,085,707
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR	200,101	(462,774)

Hegay Altrogge Metchett & Partners LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS — **FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31**

	2009 $	2008 $
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over expenditures for the year	200,101	(462,774)
Items not affecting cash -		
Amortization of deferred contributions	(423,639)	(443,874)
Depreciation	436,550	434,164
Write-down of tangible capital assets	-	163,898
	213,012	(308,586)
Changes in non-cash working capital items -		
Accounts receivable	16,053	141,790
Inventory	12,778	21,453
Prepaid expenses	(1,026)	(192)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(95,479)	(85,282)
Deferred revenue	-	(314,574)
Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities	145,338	(545,391)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Changes in non-cash working capital items -		
Accounts receivable - renewal project	341,455	(130,480)
Accounts payable - renewal project	(1,577,424)	1,629,634
Cash Provided By (Used In) Financing Activities	(1,235,969)	1,499,154
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(1,404,831)	(3,854,312)
Contributions for tangible capital assets	2,996,504	2,401,523
Redemption of guaranteed investment certificate	-	125,886
Cash Provided By (Used In) Investing Activities	1,591,673	(1,326,903)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH POSITION	501,042	(373,140)
CASH DEFICIENCY - BEGINNING OF YEAR	(785,639)	(412,499)
CASH DEFICIENCY - END OF YEAR	(284,597)	(785,639)
CASH DEFICIENCY CONSISTS OF:		
Cash	-	17,177
Bank overdraft	(2,129)	(428,420)
Bank overdraft - renewal project	(282,468)	(374,396)
	(284,597)	(785,639)

Heagy Altrogge Matchett & Partners LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

SCHEDULE 1 - GRANTS — **FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31**

	2009 $	2008 $
Province of Saskatchewan	602,137	563,671
City of Saskatoon	184,000	184,000
Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund	100,000	100,000
Wage Subsidy programs	28,344	-
Canadian Heritage	4,756	-
Foundations and other	2,250	16,455
Urban Aboriginal grant	-	6,750
	921,487	870,876

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

SCHEDULE 2 - GIFT SHOP OPERATIONS — **FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31**

	2009 $	2008 $
SALES	15,221	133,654
COST OF SALES	8,451	91,578
GROSS PROFIT	6,770	42,076
EXPENSES		
Wages and employee benefits	5,470	24,936
Interest and bank charges	730	1,803
Consultants	563	-
Depreciation	214	560
Supplies and maintenance	161	2,160
Office	-	754
Telephone and utilities	-	99
Travel	-	33
	7,138	30,345
NET (LOSS) EARNINGS FOR THE YEAR	(368)	11,731

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

SCHEDULE 3 - RESTAURANT OPERATIONS — **FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31**

	2009 $	2008 $
SALES	111,273	307,650
COST OF SALES	53,537	90,815
GROSS PROFIT	57,736	216,835
EXPENSES		
Wages and employee benefits	171,821	176,910
Supplies and maintenance	21,625	15,526
Depreciation	8,428	2,246
Office	3,902	8,078
Interest and bank charges	619	1,089
Bad debts	-	16,233
Travel	-	50
	206,395	220,132
	(148,659)	(3,297)
OTHER INCOME		
Rental	33,003	76,020
Other	2,165	2,606
	35,168	78,626
NET (LOSS) EARNINGS FOR THE YEAR	(113,491)	75,329

Heagy Abreggo Matchett & Partners LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — **FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009**

1. ORGANIZATION

Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority was established to operate the Wanuskewin Heritage Park which commenced full time commercial operations on June 1, 1992. The Authority is a registered charitable organization and is exempt from income taxes under the Canadian Income Tax Act.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Inventory

Inventory is valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value using the first-in, first-out method. Value of inventory is regularly reviewed. When previously provided write-downs are subsequently determined recoverable, inventory is written up to its previous cost value, provided the realizable value exceeds its original cost, otherwise, it is written up to its new realizable value. Any write-downs or subsequent reversals of these write-downs are disclosed in the financial statements in the period such adjustment is determined.

Tangible Capital Assets and Depreciation

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost and amortized over their estimated useful lives. This requires estimation of the useful life of the asset and its salvage and residual value. At the end of each accounting period management considers whether there has been a permanent impairment in the value of tangible capital assets by estimating the net recoverable amount of the unamortized portion. As is true of all accounting estimates, it is possible that changes in future conditions could require changes in the recognized amounts for accounting estimates. Should an adjustment become necessary, it would be reported in earnings in the period in which it became known.

Depreciation of tangible capital assets is calculated using the straight-line method at the following annual rates:

Buildings and site development	4-10%
Equipment	10-20%
Gift Shop equipment	10-20%
Restaurant equipment	10-20%

Depreciation on assets acquired during the year is recorded at the full annual rate. The building under construction is not being depreciated. Depreciation will be recorded when the building is available for use.

Contributions (grants and donations) received for tangible assets are deferred and amortized on the same basis as the asset to which it relates is depreciated. Contributions that are not amortizable, consisting of land and art, are credited directly to equity.

Revenue Recognition

The Authority follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as receipts in the year in which the related expenditures are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as receipts when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Donated Materials and Services

The Authority benefits from the donation of materials and services from its members. These financial statements do not reflect the value of donations in kind received in the year since a fair value cannot be reasonably estimated.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of receipts and expenditures during the year. Actual results could differ from estimates.

Financial Instruments

Effective April 1, 2008 the Authority adopted the following new accounting standards issued by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA): "Financial Instruments - Recognition and Measurement and "Financial Instruments - Disclosure and Presentation". These new standards have been applied prospectively.

All financial instruments must be initially recognized at fair value on the balance sheet date. The Authority has classified each financial instrument into the following categories: held for trading financial assets and liabilities, loans or receivables, held to maturity investments, available for sale financial assets and other financial liabilities. Subsequent measurement of the financial instruments is based on their classification.

There are no financial assets or liabilities on the balance sheet designated as held to maturity or available for sale. Cash and short-term deposits are classified as held for trading financial assets. All other financial assets are classified as loans or receivable and are accounted for on an amortized cost basis. All financial liabilities are classified as other financial liabilities.

Upon adoption and with any new financial instrument, an irrevocable election is available that allows entities to classify any financial asset or financial liability as held for trading. There were no transitional adjustments on adoption of these standards.

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009

3. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost $	Accumulated Depreciation $	Net Book Value 2009 $	2008 $
Land	434,006	-	434,006	434,006
Buildings and site development	11,149,407	7,529,177	3,620,230	4,015,327
Art	7,500	-	7,500	7,500
Equipment	430,372	358,927	71,445	88,312
Gift Shop equipment	55,039	53,869	1,170	1,384
Restaurant equipment	220,848	155,406	65,442	11,570
	12,297,172	8,097,379	4,199,793	4,558,099
Building under construction	5,578,133	-	5,578,133	4,251,546
	17,875,305	8,097,379	9,777,926	8,809,645

4. BANK OVERDRAFT

The first bank overdraft provision relates to the operating account and is secured by a general security agreement covering all assets. The overdraft bears interest at a floating rate based on bank prime plus .5 percent. The Authority's total available overdraft is $150,000 (2008 - $150,000). The terms of the overdraft are due to be renegotiated on November 1, 2009.

A second bank overdraft provision relates to the renewal project account and is secured by a general security agreement covering all assets. The overdraft bears interest at a floating rate based on bank prime plus 2 percent. The Authority's total available overdraft is $267,200 (2008 - $375,000). The terms of the overdraft are due to be renegotiated on November 1, 2009.

The prime rate at March 31, 2009 was 2.5%.

5. DEFERRED REVENUE

	2009 $	2008 $
Funding restricted to site projects	10,000	10,000

6. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

	Contributions	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value 2009	2008
	$	$	$	$
Buildings and site development	10,274,569	7,333,141	2,941,428	3,301,604
Renewal Project	5,672,939	-	5,672,939	2,676,434
Other	1,025,352	518,691	506,661	570,125
	16,972,860	7,851,832	9,121,028	6,548,163

7. OPERATING LEASES

The minimum annual lease payments under operating equipment leases are as follows:

	$
Year ending March 31, 2010	4,094
2011	4,094
2012	4,094
2013	1,706
2014	-

8. COMMITMENTS

Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority has partially completed the Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority Renewal Project. The project's purpose was to expand and rejuvenate Wanuskewin Heritage Park through various additions and expansions to the current facility. The total cost of the project is projected to be $8,884,000. As of March 31, 2009, the following amounts have been received, or are included in accounts receivable, by the Authority for the funding of the project:

	$
Department of Western Economic Diversification	608,777
Province of Saskatchewan - Building Communities Program	4,565,040
Government of Canada	322,563
Aboriginal Business Canada	176,559
	5,672,939

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK AUTHORITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2009

8. COMMITMENTS (continued)

These amounts have been recorded as deferred contributions related to tangible capital assets and will be amortized at the same rate as the project is depreciated once the project is substantially completed.

Additional funding has been committed to the Authority to allow for the completion of the Renewal Project.

The Authority has also entered into a lease agreement with the City of Saskatoon for the lease of land adjacent to the park for 99 years at a cost of $1.

9. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Authority is dependent on contributions in the form of grants from various government entities as well as general donations and partnerships. Its ability to continue viable operations is dependent upon maintaining a reasonable level of grants, donations and partnerships. The Authority received significant funds from the following contributors during the past year:

Province of Saskatchewan
City of Saskatoon
Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund
Western Economic Diversification

10. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain of the 2008 figures on the statement of financial position have been reclassified to conform to the 2009 financial statement presentation.

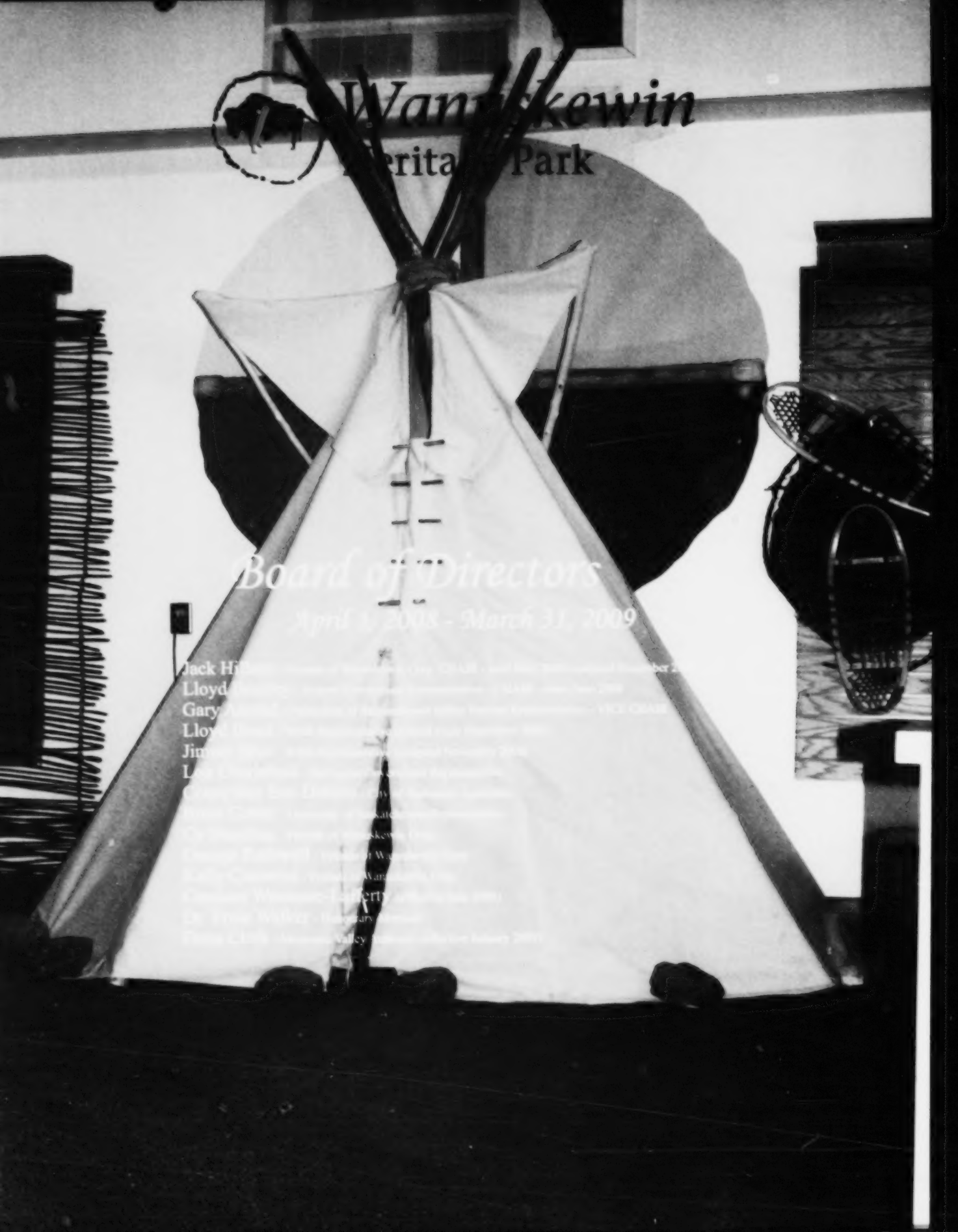
11. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial Instruments

Due to the short-term nature of all financial instruments, the carrying values as presented in the financial statements are reasonable estimates of fair value. Management has estimated fair value by reference to established financial markets. As is true for all estimates, actual fair value could differ from this estimate and, if so, any difference would be accounted for in the period in which it becomes known.

Credit Risk

The Authority is subject to interest rate risk on its debt obligations. Management has attempted to minimize this risk by negotiating the best possible interest rates.



Board of Directors

April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009

Jack Hi
Lloyd
Gary
Lloy
Jim
L